
Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

Field Day '01

Another Success for Seattle ACS

By Linda Dockstader, K7SLK

Field Day 2001 was a big success thanks to the efforts of many of our members. This year marked our third official Field Day exercise. Mark Shepherd N7LYE arranged for the site for this year at the old Sand Point Naval Air Station facility. Mark also arranged for overnight camping for our group, as it is not usually allowed at Sand Point. The old Brig Building has been converted to a Community Center and it was on the old air strip outside that building where we set up shop.

Our focus this year was on utilizing the new Disk-Cone antenna and on operating for points. You will recall that last year our focus was on getting a site up and operational. We had just enough contesting points to be worth submitting. This year we did it differently and planned from the beginning to rack up the contest points.

Paul Beringer, W7EAI, donated his time and considerable expertise to setting up a schedule that kept folks on the air. He also kept track of the contest points using new software. Paul finished up his Operations Management duties by submitting this data to ARRL in the required format. Our total points earned were 1420, including 700 points earned by meeting requirements (number of stations run on emergency power, etc.), and 720 points earned for contacts made. CW won the day with the most points earned on

20 meters CW followed by 15 meters CW. Thanks, Paul, for all your hard work!

Dave Prince, WB0RAZ, brought Drake equipment and an excellent example of tube technology in a Heathkit amplifier. Paul Beringer brought his ICOM-756 on which he and others racked up many points

on the bands. Bill Dockstader, W7LSK, brought a Yaesu FT-847 which ran PSK31. The City of Seattle supplied generators to assist those brought by Jim Hicks, K7BDL.

Jim also brought his tents and camp kitchen setup. As always, Jim's food was excellent! The Saturday night Jambalaya was the highlight of the weekend for me. Thanks again to Jim, it was delicious.

The Disk Cone Antenna

It all began with a discussion after last years, Field Day about the need for a broad band omnidirectional HF antenna that could easily follow the bands. Dave Prince had always been fascinated by the design concepts of the Disk Cone antenna and he sketched a prototype design. Jim Hicks said he could use his parts manufacturing expertise to build it in his complete machine shop. The antenna slowly became a reality.

A group of ACS volunteers gathered to transport a tower generously donated by Bill Ehler, K7NZV. That same day they also removed Dave Prince's six-element Quad antenna from the Mechanical Engineering building at the University of Washington after the UW radio club disbanded.

From there, Dave and Jim worked tirelessly to create the Disk Cone an-

See **Field Day**, page 4



Photo by Sandy Cook, KD7EEC

Dave Prince WB0RAZ at work

QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle
Emergency Management

ACS Net & Disaster Coordination
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

ACS Primary Message Channels
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

ACS 6 Meter Frequency
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

ACS Website
www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

State & County Nets
Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.987 MHz

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King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the
Auxiliary Communication Service to:
Mark Sheppard, N7LYE
ACS Manager
Seattle EOC
2320 4th Avenue,
Seattle, Wa. 98121-1718
voice - 206 684 5027
FAX - 206 470 6715
mark.sheppard@ci.seattle.wa.us

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Please direct letters, articles, and
inquiries about QRV? to the editor:
Peter Smith N7BYP
(206) 284-2098
n7byp@arrl.net

From the Editor

Thanks

Wow! Volume 5, number 1 already!
Amazing. Much has happened since we
started publishing *QRV?* back in 1997
and *QRV?* has been there to record it all.
Field days, academies, WTO, Y2K, and,
of course, much more.

Your editor would like to take this
opportunity to thank all those who helped
with *QRV?* over the last year. Thanks to
Jim Mullen, Director of Emergency Man-
agement for the fine articles he prepared
for all four issues. Thanks also to Linda
Dockstader, K7LSK, Bill Dockstader,
W7LSK, Paul Beringer, W7EAI, Bill
Ehler, K7NZV, Mark Sheppard, N7LYE,
and Sandy Cook, KD7EED, for produc-
ing articles and/or photos for *QRV?*.

When I complete the production of
QRV? I send it to Denise Croysdill at the
Emergency Operations Center. Denise
copies *QRV?* and prepares it for mailing.
Thanks to you, Denise, for your efficient
and professional work. Without your help,
QRV? simply wouldn't exist. We appreci-
ate you!

I also send articles and pictures to
Nick Weisand who translates copy into
web pages. Thanks also to you, Nick, for
the terrific looking web version of *QRV?*.

And Help!

As you can see, many people have
contributed to the publication of our news-
letter. Remember seeing pictures of the
posters used during World War II to en-
courage recruits? The poster had a picture
of Uncle Sam pointing his finger directly
at the viewer and saying: "I need you!"

Okay, stretch your imagination (and
it *will* be a stretch >>grin<<) and imagine
that instead of Uncle Sam, it's a picture of
your editor pointing his finger and say-
ing: "I need you!" Yes, your help is needed.
Do you have ideas for articles? Would
you like to write an article? How can
QRV? be improved? If you have any
interests in contributing to our newsletter
in any way your "Uncle Editor" would
like to hear from you. — — — — —

From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director
Seattle Emergency Management

I had the privilege of attending a
portion of the recent ACS Field Day.
Fortunately, in addition to enormous skill
and dedication, ACS folks seem to have a
deep reservoir of patience when explain-
ing to rank amateurs (me) what they are
doing, and how they are doing it. I even
got a healthy sandwich, saving me and a
fast food chain an unnecessary encounter.

One of the things that I have been
thinking about with respect to ACS is the
significant amount of time many of you
spend on ACS-related activity. I think
that you share with us the belief that all of
the hard work that you are doing will be
very much needed some day, and perhaps
very soon. All of us would prefer that we
never have to come together "for real" but
we also know how important it is to pre-
pare ourselves, and our systems, for any
contingency.

There are two things that I need to ask
of you: the first is to keep working on
adding to your numbers. I think that it is
critical that we maintain a strong cadre of
people to staff the various slots. We have
great people, but in a protracted event
some of you may not be able to devote as
much time as you normally would to your
community. We want to be able to main-
tain services during any type of emer-
gency situation. Let's keep responsibly
adding to the ACS team. Share your ideas
with Mark Sheppard, or with Bill
Dockstader or with any of your leaders.

A second thing is to continue to pro-
pose enhancements to our system. The
Emergency Management budget is not
inexhaustible, but we get a new one every
year. As Mark brings ideas to me during
the course of a year, I usually try to ac-
commodate him, but sometimes he has to
wait while I search for the funds. Never-
theless, I know how important it is to
acquire the tools you need so that you can
improve the quality of ACS's service.
Keep your ideas coming.

See EOC, page 4

Personal Profile

Harris Johnson, N7SOQ

It's good thing that Harris gave me detailed directions to his qth! I never would have found it if he hadn't. I have to add that getting to Harris' qth was well worth the effort. I had a very enjoyable eyeball qso with Harris and his wife, Vivian, in their comfortable home in West Seattle just off Admiral Way. While there I noticed many pictures of boats and grandchildren, two very important parts of Harris' and Vivian's life.

Ever since he was a youngster, Harris has been interested in radio. He recalls learning about radio when he was in the Boy Scouts. He would have become a ham then but one thing stopped him. What kept Harris and undoubtedly many others from becoming a ham was an inability to learn cw. Harris told me that no matter who much he practiced, he just couldn't develop his cw skill sufficiently to go for his ham ticket.

As a youngster, Harris was also learning how to sail. As we all know, you don't have to pass a cw test to get into sailing so naturally, Harris followed his sailing interests and his radio activities were put on hold for a while. As he grew older, Harris became active in the Sea Scouts and eventually, during the thirties, took to the sea as a seaman aboard freighters and passenger liners. His time at sea was followed by engineering studies at the University of Washington.

After graduating from the University of Washington with his degree in engineering, Har-

ris worked first for the Bonneville Power Administration, then Seattle Engineering Department, and finally served for many years as the Engineering Manager at an engine and compressor company in San Francisco. Throughout this time he maintained his maritime interests by continuing his boating activities. Harris is now retired

Harris . . . took to the sea as a seaman aboard freighters and passenger liners

and pursues many interests including, of course, boating.

While I was visiting with Harris he showed me a painting of his current boat, a 35 foot wooden Pacemaker built in 1962. Even a non-boater like me could easily see that this vessel is a standout, a real beauty. It's powered by two diesel engines and is currently moored at the Queen City Yacht Club where Harris maintains his member-

ship. He has traveled all over northwest waters with this boat, venturing out as far as Alaska.

Actually, it's boating that brought Harris back to ham radio. His maritime radio activities rekindled the radio interest and about fifteen years ago Harris became licensed as N7SOQ.

Harris's shack includes an Atlas 210X 10 through 80 meter transceiver, a KDK two meter base station, and a couple of 2 meter handhelds. Antennas consist of a seventy foot long wire for hf, a 5/8 wave ground plane for 2 meters, and a homebrew 1/4 wave for 2 meters.

Our familiar SDART program was the way through which Harris became involved with ACS. In addition to his regular participation in our Monday evening radio nets and other ACS meetings, Harris checks in to the University of Washington Emergency Radio net that meets at 12:30 on Fridays.

When I asked Harris about his favorite Seattle spot, guess what he said. Of course, it is the Queen City Yacht Club! Another favorite place is out I-90 near Easton. Harris owns 80 acres that has been in his family for years. The land is

now used for a tree farm. Harris told me that he enjoys going there from time to time to commune with nature and remember fun times he spent there as a child. He recalled that when he was a youngster, the drive up there was a dirt road with lots and lots of switchbacks!

Thanks, Harris, for your faithful participation in ACS and your willingness to serve when called. It is volunteers like you who are the essence of our Auxiliary Communication Service and who make it the valuable resource it has become. ■■■■■

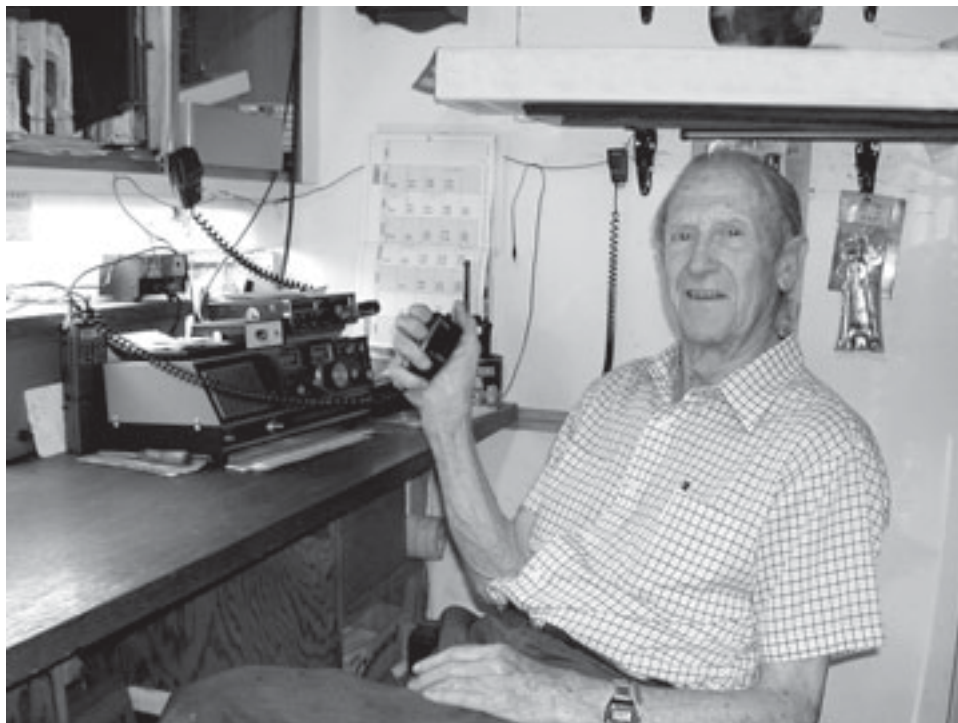


Photo by Pete Smith, N7BYP

Harris, N7SOQ, in his shack.

Field Day, from page 1

tenna. Among other engineering marvels in this antenna Jim Hicks meticulously created the 12 spreader arms, drilled all at the same angle. Dave credits Jim with design craft and manufacturing genius, making Jim a valuable club resource!

How did it perform? Dave reports that the first night before Field Day they pulled in stations as far away as Spain on 20 meters. During Field Day the antenna was connected to Dave's Drake Linear Amplifier and the number of contacts multiplied rapidly.

Next year the plan is to have more dedicated CW on the Disk Cone antenna to increase our score in the contesting side of Field Day. Also, there remains enough material to fashion a 3 element Quad antenna for next year.

In Conclusion

This third Field Day was yet another success for Seattle ACS. We proved again that we could set up several viable radio

stations in the field. We demonstrated our technical skill in a brand new omnidirectional HF antenna and in accumulating contest points. Many ACS members contributed to this success. Thanks to all of you whether named or not your help and willingness to serve is the essence of Seattle ACS.

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Training Supplement? There is no training supplement for this issue of *QRV?*. Look for it to return in the Autumn issue. -ed.

EOC, from page 2

As I tell my Emergency Management staff repeatedly, when it's a little quiet, get some rest, play a little, and come back strong. The same is true for all of you. If it stays quiet for awhile, enjoy the summer, and your families. Let's find some more people like you, and come back strong in the Fall, unless the community needs you before then....

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Picnic

On Monday, August 6th, a picnic sponsored by ACS, King County ARES, and the Medical Service Team was held at Woodland Park in Seattle. Approximately twenty people attended. The usual picnic fare was served including hamburgers, hotdogs and assorted side dishes.

Bill Ehler K7NZV, and Bill Dockstader, W7LSK, represented ACS. The weather was great although a little cool later in the evening. Rick Hodges, KB7TBF, had his trailer there so picnickers were able to watch the end of the Mariners game. Everyone enjoyed getting together. *(Editor's note: Thanks to Bill Dockstader, W7LSK, for contributing information about the picnic.)*

QRV? - Seattle ACS
Office of Emergency Management
Seattle Police Department
2320 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1718